



President's Patch

By Sheri Walker

It's been a busy year with the Mat-Su Master Gardeners: record sales at the plant sale, a fine library planter, wonderful speakers and tours, first scholarship given and the addition of over twenty new members. Welcome all.

I am very excited to announce our website, thanks to Michele Walker and her computer programmer husband who took over for me when I got stuck trying to figure it out.

Check it out at www.matsumastergardeners.org

It's wonderful. We will soon be posting the newsletter on the website and notifying members by email when it has been posted, rather than sending the newsletter by email. Unfortunately, due to the cost of the printed color newsletter, we will be going back to black and white for those who receive it by postal mail. If you are currently receiving it by postal mail but have email, please consider switching to email notification to help us reduce our costs. We also have a new general email address: matsumastergardeners@gmail.com .

The conference planning meeting for Conference 2010, Back to Our Roots was very productive. Many speakers have been confirmed and other details discussed. It looks like it will all come together quite nicely. We thought it would be nice to flaunt all the great talent amongst us by having our talented members donate something of your creativity as door prizes. There will be plenty of other areas in which to assist also. I will keep you posted as the needs arise.

We still need a nominee for Secretary. The primary responsibility of the secretary is to record the minutes at each general meeting and at 3 -5 board meetings/year. Please seriously consider filling this position. With over 70 embers it would be really nice to see 2 or 3 names on the nominee list.

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Chapter Meetings First Monday of the Month

Next meeting
Monday, December 7, 2009, 7:00 pm
Location:
Red Beet Cafe
Palmer, Alaska

Meeting Agenda

Christmas Party Potluck and
December Meeting
Elections - we still need a nominee for
secretary
Parade details

Hally will cook turkey and ham and provide paper products. Bring a side dish of your choice. Let Hally (376-0909) know ages and gender of your young children that will be attending with you so that she can purchase appropriate gifts. There will be a Chinese Auction for all adults who wish to participate. Please keep the cost of the gift less than \$20.00



The Christmas Party is coming up which is always a lot of fun. Our first ever entry in the Parade of Lights is soon also. We hope that you will be able to join us for one or both activities. And speaking of Christmas, consider giving a gift membership this year.

Lighting Your Indoor Plants

By: Stephen Brown,
Mat Su/Copper River District Agriculture Agent

Plants that can adapt to interior settings usually are divided into three general categories: those suitable for low, medium and high light intensities. The categories generally indicate the minimum light required. Growth is often best at the higher end of these suggested light ranges.

Low-light plants

Plants referred to as low light intensity plants generally should receive between 50 and 250 foot-candles. (A foot-candle is a measure of light intensity. A foot-candle is defined as the amount of light received by 1 square foot of a surface that is 1 foot from a point source of light equivalent to one candle of a certain type.) Under artificial light, a few plants in this group can be maintained at as little as 10 foot-candles.

One way you can estimate the amount of light available is to calculate the number of watts available per square foot of plant area. Low-light plants should receive between 10 and 15 watts of fluorescent light per square foot of growing space. A single fluorescent tube, such as a 2-foot 20-watt tube or a 4-foot 40-watt tube without any other light provides only enough light for plants in this category

Medium-light plants

These plants prefer 250 to 1,000 foot-candles. Best growth occurs above 750 foot-candles unless plants also receive extended periods of direct sunlight. Give them artificial light in the 500 to 1,000 foot-candle range or 15 or more watts per square foot of growing area.

While plants in this group can be held in the 250 to 500 foot-candle range, growth is best with more light. A fixture containing two fluorescent tubes is sufficient for plants in the low to medium light range. Adjustments in the number of tubes used may be made if you regulate the distance between the tubes and plants.

High-light plants

These plants generally are less satisfactory for growing under artificial lights in the home. However, if you want to try, use special high-intensity lamps. These plants need at least 1,000 foot-candles, or 20 watts per square foot of growing area, but should have higher intensities for best growth and flowering. Fixtures containing three to four fluorescent tubes are necessary for plants requiring high light.

Distance	Type of fixture		
	☐	☐☐	☐☐☐☐
0.5 foot	500	700	900
1 foot	260 (200)	400 (260)	600
2 feet	110 (100)	180 (150)	330
3 feet	60 (60)	100 (90)	
4 feet	40	60	100

Output Table

Light output (in foot-candles) measured at various distances below fluorescent lamps. Output in parentheses is measured 1 foot on either side of a line directly below the lamps. All lamps are standard 40-watt tubes.

This article was adapted from the University of Missouri online publication [Lighting Indoor Houseplants](#) by David Trinklein.

Garden Links

Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley:

<http://interiormastergardeners.org/>

**Alaska Master Gardeners Association,
Anchorage Chapter:**

<http://alaskamastergardeners.org/>

Alaska Botanical Garden:

<http://www.alaskabg.org/>

**Master Gardeners of the Tanana Valley Monthly
Newsletter:**

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/newsletters/mastergardeners/2008/0812tananamgu.pdf>

Alaska Peony Growers Association:

<http://alaskapeonies.org/index.html>

Alaska State Federation of Garden Clubs:

<http://www.gardencentral.org/asfgc/homepage/>

UAF, CES Palmer Website:

<http://mat-suces.weebly.com>

UAF Cooperative Extension Service Publications:

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/pubs/>

Alaska Plant Materials Center:

http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_pmc.htm

Master Gardener Research Link:

<http://search.extension.org>

Matsu Master Gardener Site:

www.matsumastergardeners.org

Announcements

MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE PLANNING MEETING

Master Gardener Conference Planning Meeting
Dec 15 at 6:30, place TBD.

VOLUNTEERS OPPORTUNITIES

Board Positions: Secretary

Standing Committees for 2010:

Plant Sale - oversee the organization of plant sale to include: advertising, reservation of site, set up, money collection and tally

Nominations - lead recruitment process for suitable members for the Board of Directors

Christmas Party - plan date, time, location, activities, budget

Scholarship selection - advertise and distribute applications for scholarship to Valley high schools, review applications and make final selection of recipient

State Fair Garden and Art Festival - oversee set up/take down of booth, select gardening info for distribution, recruit volunteers to staff booth

2010 Statewide MG Conference: Back to Our Roots:

Various opportunities, if you're interested please let conference planning committee know

Assistant Newsletter Editor

Assist Deb to label, fold and mail paper version

Parade of Lights Dec 12

float decorators, walkers, riders are still needed

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.matsumastergardeners.org

and our new e-mail:-

matsumastergardeners@gmail.com

DECORATING PARTY FOR FLOAT

There will be a decorating party for the Parade of Light Float at the Bowman's:

Dec 11 from 10:00 a.m. to noon

Dec 12 from 10:00 am until finished

Refreshments will be provided

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

For just \$10 (single) or \$12 (family) your friends and loved ones can enjoy our newsletter all year long. As well as being able to participate in the wonderful garden tours, field trips, informative talks and events, your loved one will receive a lovely gift card! Gift membership forms are available on our new website: www.matsumastergardeners.org or call 907-306-1188. Share your love of gardening and help make this winter a little greener!

CLUB CONTACT INFO

President: Sheri Walker 746-6772
VP Wayne Bowman 745-3537
Secretary: Hazel Koppenberg 745-4958
Treasurer: Arlene Bowman 745-3537

If you have gardening news, photos or information you'd like to share in the newsletter, please contact: Deb Blaylock, Email: kdblalock@ak.net





December 2009



Matsu Master Gardener's Club
PO Box 598
Palmer, AK 99645



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code